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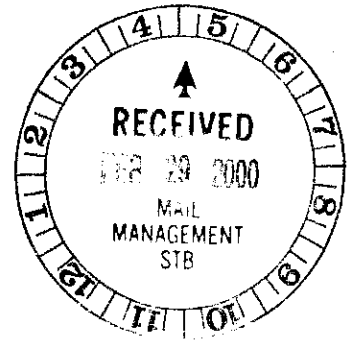
J.M. SMUCKER (CANADA), INC.

February 29, 2000

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Office of the Secretary

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Office of
Supply Chain Management



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20423-0001

Dear Sir:

J.M. Smucker (Canada) Inc. is the leading jam and jelly manufacturer in Canada and a major user of rail service in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers proposed mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits as well.

Our concern with regards to this merger is to assure service and improve service. This is a key element for our business. It is our belief that the CN-BNSF merger should be fairly evaluated. It is our hope that the Surface Transportation Board not use this hearing to create additional layers of protection.

Regards,


Joseph Bitton
Director Supply Chain Management